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INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 10 February 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia regarding the recent assassination attempt against the President of Georgia, Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under the item entitled "Measures to eliminate international terrorism", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Peter CHKHEIDZE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia regarding the assassination attempt against the President of the Republic of Georgia, issued at Tbilisi on 10 February 1998

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia expresses its deep concern with respect to the terrorist act targeting Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, President of Georgia, committed on 9 February 1998.

This well-organized, cynical terrorist attack is a new attempt to undermine the very idea of Georgian statehood. The way in which it was committed gives serious grounds to presume that we are dealing with international terrorism.

A thorough investigation will be carried out in order to identify the perpetrators of this horrible act. However, it is obvious that the attack has been directed against the independence, stability and democratic developments not only of Georgia, but also of all the nations of the Caucasus.

Obviously, behind this terrorist act there are forces that are interested in the creation of chaos in Georgia and in hindering the ongoing positive developments in the region as a whole.

The efforts undertaken against these forces are seriously undermined by the fact that the perpetrators of the first terrorist attack, of 29 August 1995, against Mr. Shevardnadze, harboured in some foreign countries, have not yet been punished. These circumstances create a syndrome of impunity and give an additional stimulus to the subversive activities of their followers.

The developments of recent years evidence the increasing danger of international terrorism. This problem remains vital to Georgia, which has experienced first-hand the disastrous consequences of terrorist activities.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia calls upon the world community and all friendly nations once again to strengthen cooperation with the Government of Georgia and the Governments of all the nations of the Caucasus, and to undertake decisive measures against terrorism with a view to fostering stability and democratic processes in the whole region.